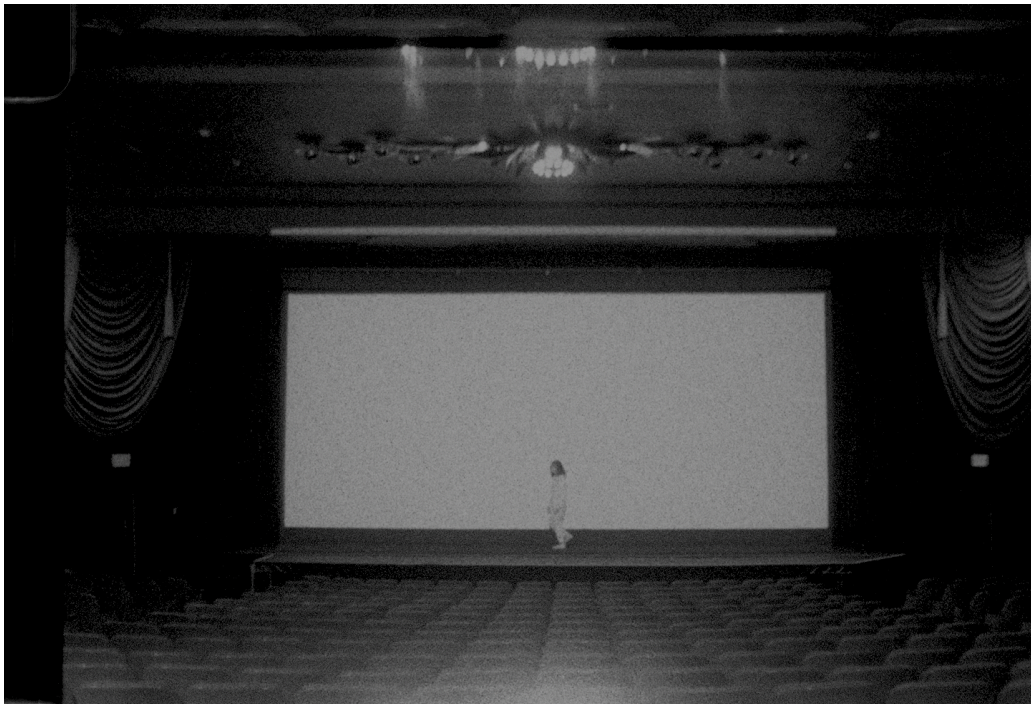


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Press contact: audrey@moca-tucson.org

Na Mira: Subrosa

March 24 - October 22, 2023



Na Mira, *TETRAPHOBIA* (film still), 2022. Courtesy the artist, Company Gallery, and Parkview/Paul Soto.

TUCSON, AZ—MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) Tucson presents *Subrosa*, the first solo museum exhibition by **Na Mira**, an artist who uses intuitive and experimental processes to create immersive moving image installations. MOCA has commissioned a new chapter of Mira's project imagining *White Dust From Mongolia*, an unfinished film by the late artist and author Theresa Hak Kyung Cha. In *Subrosa*, nonlinear films, radio transmissions, and the color red bleed together to touch the edges of memory.

The exhibition features two pieces shot on 16mm film and infrared video in Los Angeles and South Korea: *Noraebang*, a new commission for MOCA, and a two-channel installation, *TETRAPHOBIA* (2022). Both films are guided by Mira's dialogue with Cha, who worked with structuralism, fragmentation, poetry, and Shamanism throughout the 1970s. The film *White Dust* addresses the

military occupation of Korea and its impacts on migration and language, and was left unfinished at the time of Cha's murder in 1982. Informed by her own Korean matrilineal history, Mira engages the materials and gaps within Cha's archive to attend to collective experiences of diaspora.

Expanding on the original plot where two characters meet inside a memory, Mira follows Cha's script, revisiting charged sites and recording scenes at a theater, a house in Seoul, and a portrait studio, allowing her own performance, autobiography, and witnessing to transmute the story.

In the gallery, each reel of unedited black and white footage is arranged side by side in the shape of an unfolding cube and plays simultaneously to allow multiple points of entry. Mirrors within the installation double, reverse, and refract images off the screen and across the floor. Informed by her ancestral practices and the fallible nature of technology, the artist invites synchronicity into her process. As such, the works are animated by glitches, light leaks, and the soundtrack of a Korean radio station that began playing from a microphone in Mira's studio while filming. These errant frequencies cause the films' narratives to shudder and multiply, colliding past and present.

The exhibition's title, *Subrosa*, means "under the rose," an ancient reference to secrecy, and evokes red, a color that permeates the exhibition. Red supports film's development in the darkroom and the architecture of the cinema because its long waveform is the first to drop out of sight. Moving through the installation, red flickers in and out of view; placing the images at a threshold of disappearance, Mira looks toward another realm.

To celebrate the opening of *Subrosa*, on **Saturday, March 25 at 2pm**, MOCA presents a reading with the artist and invited authors.

Mira will read from her recent publication *The Book of Na*, which describes the divination practices that she used in creating the artworks on view. For *The Book of Na*, Mira used I Ching Hexagram 44 as a form of bibliomancy, quoting from page 44 of various books. This feminist symbol for power upheavals becomes a key technology of the text, providing synchronicities across times and narratives. Following Mira's reading, 4 invited authors will read aloud from page 44 from 4 books of their choosing, to continue the story beyond a single author and create an ongoing divination and live entanglement.

Na Mira: Subrosa is organized by Alexis Wilkinson, Assistant Curator.

This exhibition is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, Park View / Paul Soto, and MOCA Tucson's Board of Trustees, Ambassador Council, and Members.

In-kind support provided by The Downtown Clifton Hotel and Exo Coffee Co.

About the artist:

Na Mira (b. 1982) lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent exhibitions, screenings and performances have been presented at Whitney Biennial 2022, Whitney Museum of American Art, The Kitchen, and Participant Inc., New York; Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis; Seoul Museum of Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, amongst others. Upcoming presentations include Art Sonje Center, Seoul and Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Mira graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and University of California Los Angeles and her works are in the public collections of Whitney Museum of American Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Walker Art Center. Wendy's Subway recently published the first collection of Mira's writing.

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For more information, installation photos, or to schedule interviews with the curator, please contact Audrey Molloy at: audrey@moca-tucson.org.

MOCA Tucson's Open Hours

MOCA Tucson is open Thursday - Saturday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm & Sunday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Adults \$7, Students and Seniors \$4, Youth Free.

About MOCA Tucson

MOCA Tucson inspires new ways of thinking through the cultivation, exhibition, and

interpretation of contemporary art. Established by artists in 1997, MOCA is Tucson's only museum devoted to local and global contemporary art. Housed in a repurposed firehouse, MOCA is a primary resource for arts education in our most vulnerable communities and maintains a full exhibition, public program and artist-in-residence schedule. Now in its 25th year, the Museum cultivates critical dialogue between artists and audiences about today's world; supports artists through the production and presentation of new, experimental work; and educates the artists and audiences of tomorrow.

Accessibility Information

Designated accessible parking with access to a ramp is available on the south side of McCormick Street in front of MOCA. MOCA has an accessible restroom in the lobby and all exhibition and lecture spaces are ADA compliant. There is limited seating available in each of the gallery spaces.

MOCA is committed to providing access to the arts for everyone. For questions or to arrange accommodations for your visit, please call MOCA's front desk at 520.624.5019 or email: info@moca-tucson.org.

MOCA Tucson is located on the lands of the Tohono O'odham and Yoeme (Pascua Yaqui) people.